

Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Columbus, Ohio

WING WATCH

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121st Air Refueling Wing

December 2013

Ceremony marks the end of an era



(left to right), Col. Jim Jones, 121st Air Refueling Wing commander, Lt. Col. Dave Johnson, 145th Air Refueling Squadron commander and Chief Master Sgt. Dan Toskin, 145th ARS Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, take part in the inactivation ceremony for the 145th Air Refueling Squadron on Nov. 7, 2013, at the United States Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The 145th ARS was honored for nearly 60 years of distinguished service in the Ohio Air National Guard. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wintgens/Released)



Moving on up

Capt. Tom Whiteman - 121st Chaplain corps

Maj. Scott Bailey - 121st AMXS Squadron commander

Lt. Col. Frank Giambattista - State JAG for Air

The 2013 Robert L. Boggs Leadership Award goes to...

CMSgt. John Schmitt, 121 LRS



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Commander Col. Jim Jones

Vice Cmdr. Col. Joseph Schulz

PA Officer Capt. Erika Wonn

Superintendent Senior Master Sgt. Kim Frey

Journalist/Editor Master Sgt. Bill Pierce

Journalist Airman 1st Class Wendy Kuhn

Photographer Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wintgens

Wing Watch submissions

Articles, photos, announcements and other useful information should be submitted to the PA office by 12 p.m. Friday of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. UTAs for print in the next issue. Material can be e-mailed to: 121ARW.WingWatch@ang.af.mil

Holiday message from the commander

As the end of the year approaches I'm extremely honored with the strength each and every one of you have demonstrated. Throughout budget cuts and sequestration, you have maintained mission focus; truly exemplifying the meaning of service. Both here and abroad you have defended America's interest while supporting your State and community, meeting incredible challenges. As your commander I'm humbled by your strength and resilience.

Even though the holidays can sometimes be hectic, we can all do ourselves a favor by reflecting on our blessings. Equally important is that you travel and celebrate with care. Practice risk management in everyday decision-making and avoid carelessness that could jeopardize your safety or that of others. Your family, wingman and country deserve this commitment.

Whether you are deployed or serving at home, your dedication and sacrifice are greatly appreciated. I wish you and your family a holiday season filled with wonderful memories.

JAMES V. JONES, Col, OHANG
Commander, 121st Air Refueling Wing

How well do you know your Airmen?

How well do you think you know the people you work with at the 121st?

Below are several statements that our Mystery Airman has used to describe him/herself. See how long it takes for you to guess their correct identity...if you can.

Our Mystery Airman says...

1. I love seafood. Scallops and tilapia are my favorites.
2. I am good at doing minor DIY home repairs.
3. I love jazz music and my favorite group is The Rippingtons.
4. My first job was a data entry clerk at the Columbus Jewish Foundation.
5. I have two children.
6. I enjoy running.
7. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio in Hilltop.
8. I graduated from West High School in the 1980's.
9. I earned a bachelor's degree in business management.
10. My entire career has been at the 121 ARW.
11. I started my Air Force career as a billeting clerk.
12. I have been in the military for 27 years.

The identity of our Mystery Airman is revealed somewhere within the Wing Watch.

Challenges bring opportunity for strength

Lt. Col. Michael Reed

Commander, Force Support Squadron

Greetings fellow Airmen,

I hope you are all finding time to enjoy this Holiday Season with your families and friends. These can be stressful times for many, and it is important to be sure to look for the good things in our lives and not just focus on the many challenges life can bring to us. There's a saying that with change comes stress, and we definitely have had a lot of both here at the 121st this year. While there are more than I can cover in this writing, the big ones are the reduction in personnel and assigned aircraft, the impacts of the budget battles in Washington, the untimely passing of several unit members, and the overall uncertainty of what the future holds for our unit and our people. While all of these things can be overwhelming, it is important to remember that we are here for each other, and no matter what happens, we will do our best for each and every member of our unit and families.

The Force Support Squadron has had a very challenging year. We've been impacted by the reductions in personnel, both from our own team losing multiple AGR positions, as well as supporting all of the unit members impacted by the manning changes. We were assigned to the new Fatality Search and Recovery Team mission (an eleven person team) along with all of the many training and exercise requirements, with no additional personnel or funding allocated to this mission. There have been several unit members who have passed on suddenly during this year, and this is a very stressful situation for our entire Force Support Team members who have to take care of processing the benefits and insuring the best possible care for the Airmen and their families during a very emotional time. With all of these difficult changes and events, it is easy to focus on the negative and get into a downward trend in attitude and emotions. Thus it is very important to look for the many positive changes and events that are also happening around us every day.

On that note, I want to let you all know we have a big upgrade planned for our dining facility. Due to the hard work and collaboration of many people here at the base and at the National Guard Bureau, we have secured funding and approvals to refresh and update our serving lines and dining area. Starting at the end of this month, the Red Tail will be closed for renovation. The work is scheduled to be completed in March of 2014. During this construction period we will be serving catered grab-and-go meals in hangar 888 for all unit members during drill weekend. This update to our facility is a reminder of the continued investment in our people and mission, and we are very excited to be able to offer an improved dining experience for our Airmen, their families and all the people who support the mission every day.

Thanks to all of you for everything you do for the wing, our mission and most importantly, our people.

Have a great Holiday Season!

Commander's Column



A Season to be Grateful

Capt. Tom Whiteman
Chaplain

Let me take a few moments to introduce myself. My name is Chaplain Tom Whiteman. I am the newest member of the 121st Air Refueling Wing Chaplain Team. Recently, I transferred to the Air National Guard from the Ohio Army National Guard. Over the past twenty years, I have served in various areas of ministry. For the first five years of my career, I worked in full-time, pastoral ministry. Since that time, I have worked in ministry as a Pastoral Counselor. This has included work in private practice, community mental health and working with members of the Military and their families. Most recently, I served as the Director of Psychological Health for the 121st.

I have been married to my lovely and loving wife, Lori for twenty years. We have three wonderful sons – Zachary, 19; Keiffer, 17; and Landon, 13. We are very excited to enter into this new adventure – serving the 121st as a full-time Chaplain.

As a full-time Chaplain, I will be on base daily to serve those Airmen who work for the Wing full-time. In addition, I will be available to our traditional members and families should a need arise between UTA weekends.

I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve with you and to serve you. And, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the following days, months and years!

As we continue through this “holiday season” I have been reminded of how very thankful I can be. I know that Thanksgiving was last month and we have moved on to December and yet another holiday. But, I believe that gratitude is something we can exercise all the time, not exclusively in November. As a Christian Chaplain, I am admonished throughout the New Testament to, “give thanks in everything” (1 Thes. 5:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17, 4:2).

It is during this time of the year that several groups of people within our Great American Melting Pot focus on giving thanks. Nov. 26 marked the beginning of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is an eight day celebration of Jewish liberation from the Greeks over twenty centuries ago. As you may know, Kwanzaa will begin on December 26 as a time for those of African-American heritage to celebrate and give thanks for their African heritage. And, on December 25 Christians worldwide will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is appropriate so many holidays are so close together on the calendar. Thanksgiving in November gives us an opportunity to look back and be grateful for all the blessings we have experienced during the year.

The New Year celebrations in January give us an opportunity to look forward and be thankful for the blessings and opportunities that lay before us. In many ways, this can be an expression of faith – giving thanks and celebrating within the expectation that God is going to continue to offer blessings.

Christmas in December provides us an opportunity to focus on the fact that God has interacted with us on a very personal level. Those of the Hebrew faith take time to remember that Yahweh provided for a small group of warriors during a time of desperation for them as a nation, as a people. Christians celebrate the fact that God came to Earth in Jesus Christ and “made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14 – NIV)

No matter your faith or heritage, this is a great time to be grateful. I encourage you to take a moment each day and identify something for which you are thankful. As a matter of fact, take your attitude of gratified to the next level. Think about one person for whom you are thankful – something they said; something they did; a characteristic they show – and tell them. What a gift that will be!

Blessing to you, one and all!

614-427-8104 – Mobile
614-492-3320 – Office
thomas.whiteman.1@ang.af.mil



Chaplain's Corner

Air Force Announces Personnel Reduction Initiatives

To the Airmen of the United States Air Force:

We are the best Air Force in the world because we attract, recruit, develop and retain Airmen with the strongest character and commitment to our core values. Even though we just finished over a decade of extended combat operations, retention in our Air Force remains at an all-time high. While this is a testament to the selfless service of all members of our Air Force family, we are now faced with some very difficult financial choices that force us to reduce the overall size of the Air Force. To be blunt, we are going to get smaller... smaller than we've ever been as an Air Force. Over the next few years, we may have to reduce our force by approximately 25,000 Airmen and as many as 550 aircraft if we do not receive any budget relief.

Our biggest challenge will be to make sure we keep the skilled Airmen who are needed to meet the Air Force's core mission requirements. To do this, we will implement a number of force management programs to reduce the number of Airmen while maintaining our combat capability. It is always our goal to make these reductions through voluntary separations and retirements. Unfortunately, we will likely have to use involuntary measures as well. Beginning very soon, you'll see programs we've used before to include voluntary separation incentives and temporary early retirement authority, as well as force shaping and reduction in force boards. You'll also see new programs to include an enhanced selective early retirement board, enlisted retention boards, and an enlisted quality force review board. Although these programs will be explained in detail when announced, you can go to the *myPers* website for the most current information today (<https://mypers.af.mil>).

We know these programs will be unsettling to many Airmen and their families, but they are necessary to ensure that our Air Force remains the best in the world. We've decided to roll these force management tools out now to give you plenty of time to understand your options. We promise to do our best to be transparent and give you all the information that you need to make decisions affecting you and your loved ones. Whether you choose to separate or are asked to separate, we are committed to doing everything that we can to help you and your family in your transition.

Eric K. Fanning
Acting Secretary
of the Air Force

Mark A. Welsh, III
General, USAF
Chief of Staff

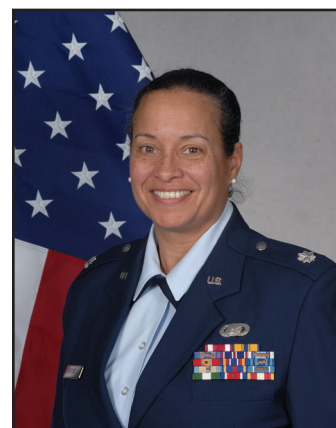
James A. Cody
Chief Master Sergeant
of the Air Force

Source: Email to all Airmen from Air Force command staff

Did you guess the Mystery Airman?

Our Mystery Airman is none other than...

Lt. Col. Holly Mitchell
121st ARW Communications Commander



Converting Spousal coverage under Family Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (FSGLI)

Spouses of Servicemembers who have spousal coverage under FSGLI have the option of converting their coverage to an individual insurance policy with a private insurance company within 120 days after certain key events.

Military Spouses: Keep Your Family SGLI Protection

Are you a military spouse? Do you have spousal coverage under Family Servicemember's Group Life Insurance (FSGLI)? Then you know the importance of having life insurance to protect your loved ones. But you should also know that your coverage will end 120 days after any of the following events:

- The date your Servicemember spouse separates from service
- The date of divorce from your Servicemember spouse
- The date of death of your Servicemember spouse
- The date your Servicemember spouse elects to end Spousal FSGLI coverage
- The date your Servicemember spouse selects to end his/her own SGLI coverage

You have the option of continuing your coverage, without having to show proof of good health, by converting it to an individual policy with a private insurance company within 120 days of any of the above-mentioned events. This is especially important to those with health issues that may exclude them from obtaining life insurance coverage elsewhere.

The insurance policy you convert to must be a permanent policy, such as whole life policy, which provides coverage for as long as you live. Premiums for these types of policies are generally higher, but they remain fixed throughout the length of the policy. Certain types of policies, such as Term, Variable Life or Universal Life Insurance are not allowed as conversion policies. You cannot convert spousal coverage under FSGLI to Veteran's Group Life Insurance coverage.

If you would like more information about converting your spousal coverage under FSGLI, visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/converting/asp or call the Office of Servicemember's Group Life Insurance at 800-419-1473, Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time.

Note:

Remember to check your records each year and after a life-changing event (marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, etc). You want to make sure you have everything in order in case the unthinkable happens. If you're not sure about it being current, take the time to check. You want to make sure that if you or a significant other should need it, you have the correct coverage.

Source: <http://benefits.va.gov/insurance/fsgli.asp>

Help identify diversity and leadership issues

An ANG nationwide survey will be launched by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOM) this month. Please watch for the official invitation to participate and don't delete that message! ANG members will receive a Wing specific (not individual) passcode to use for completing the survey. Your anonymity is protected, and your honest feedback is greatly appreciated. The survey will be open for about 60 days, but it will be helpful if you take about 15 minutes and complete it promptly when you receive it. Nationwide results will be compiled and shared (with no attempt to identify participants) when survey period is closed.

Waiver of Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits to Receive Military Pay and Allowances

Col Michael Flanagan, USAF

Director, Manpower, Personnel and Services

Recent discussions between the National Guard Bureau, Secretary of the Air Force/Reserve Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the VA have highlighted the requirement for Guardsmen to disclose any pre-existing, VA rate, compensatory disability being received. Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid by the VA to Veterans with a disability from an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during military service. It is illegal to receive active or inactive duty training pay (drill pay) concurrently with VA disability compensation or pension benefits.

To comply with this law, Guardsmen receiving VA disability compensation must complete VA Form 21-8951-2, Notice of Waiver of VA Compensation or Pension to Receive Military Pay and Allowances annually. This form reports periods of active duty, active duty for training and/or inactive duty training, and protects members from inadvertently breaking this law. You can get to the form by copying and pasting the following link to your browser: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8951-2-ARE.pdf>.

In addition, members must notify the VA if there is any change to their annual waiver.

The “Good Old Days?”

1973 Monthly Basic Pay and Allowances

Rank	< 2	> 2	> 3	> 4	> 6	> 8	> 10	> 12	> 14	> 16	> 18	> 20	> 22
O-10	2,415	2,500				2,595		2,794		2,994		3,000	
O-9	2,140	2,196	2,243			2,300		2,395		2,595		2,794	
O-8	1,938	1,996	2,044			2,196		2,300		2,395	2,500	2,595	2,700
O-7	1,610	1,720			1,797		1,902		1,996	2,196	2,347		
O-6	1,194	1,312	1,397						1,445	1,673	1,759	1,797	1,902
O-5	954	1,121	1,198				1,235	1,301	1,388	1,492	1,578	1,625	1,683
O-4	805	979	1,046		1,064	1,112	1,187	1,254	1,312	1,369	1,407		
O-3	748	836	893	989	1,036	1,073	1,131	1,187	1,216				
O-2	652	712	855	884	903								
O-1	566	589	712										
O-1E				989	1,036	1,073	1,131	1,127	1,235				
O-2E				884	903	931	979	1,017	1,046				
O-3E				712	760	789	817	846	884				
E-9							865	885	905	926	946	965	1,016
E-8						726	746	766	786	807	826	846	896
E-7	507	547	567	587	607	627	646	667	697	717	736	746	798
E-6	438	477	497	518	537	557	577	607	627	646	657		
E-5	384	418	438	458	488	507	528	547	557				
E-4	369	390	413	445	463								
E-3	355	375	390	405									
E-2	342												
E-1	307												

2013 AT A GLANCE



Safety Never Takes a Holiday

Lt. Col. Scott Buzzard
Chief of Safety

The holidays are once again upon us. This is a time of year when many of us pause and reflect on the many blessings we've received over the past year.

While counting our blessings, hopefully we also pause and give thanks for the fact we've come through another year safely. Remember that "Safety never takes a holiday." Safety is the full-time responsibility of each individual, no matter what your job may be. We all work hard and it is only right that we take time to relax this holiday season and enjoy ourselves with those we hold dear.

It is just as important, however, that while we are enjoying ourselves this holiday season we do so safely. Every winter there is an increase in the number of mishaps due to slips, trips, and falls. They make up the majority of general industry accidents. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) statistics show that slips, trips, and falls make up 15% of all accidental deaths. These are second only to motor vehicle accidents. Those stats are sobering. What can you do to avoid be-coming a statistic?

- Wear the proper footwear-pumps, high heels and dress shoes do not do well in snow and ice!
- Pay attention to where you are walking-Hang up the phone, and eliminate any other tasks that distract you while walking.
- Stick to the sidewalks if they are clear-They're there for a reason • Slow down! Just as you drive for road conditions, you should walk for ground conditions.
- If you are a building manager, make sure that sidewalks and entrances are clear of snow and that deicer has been applied.

Please keep the Wingman concept in mind and watch out for your friends and family.

Wishing you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday season!



(left to right), U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Eric Wallace, 121st Air Refueling Wing command chief, and Chief Master Sgt. Philip Smith, the 180th Fighter Wing Human Resource advisor, attend the inactivation ceremony for the 145th Air Refueling Squadron, at the U.S. Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, on Dec. 7, 2013. Chief Smith has recently been chosen as the 10th State Command Chief for the Ohio Air National Guard and will assume responsibility as the State CCM on Jan. 11, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wingtens/Released)



U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Paul Tillet, a member of the 121st Honor Guard, prepares the POW/MIA table before the start of the 145th Air Refueling Squadron Inactivation ceremony on Dec. 7, 2013, at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. The significance of the POW/MIA table is that it is set for one. The table is our way of symbolizing that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POW's or MIA's... we call them brothers. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Zachary Wingtens/Released)



121st Airman Spotlight featuring A1C Jacob Sturges

1. Where do you work and what is your job title?

I'm a journeyman in Services and I cook food at the Red Tail dining facility.

2. Why did you join the Air National Guard?

I grew up in a military family near the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. When I moved here, I thought it would be a great way to join and go to college at the same time.

3. What is the most challenging/rewarding aspect of your job?

The most challenging thing is learning the right way to cook because I've never done it before. One of the most rewarding things is making everyone happy. If people are happy, it can help them do a better job.

4. What places have you been TDY as a Guardsman? How was that different than weekend duty?

I've been to Washington D.C. and Hawaii. It was different because I had to cook breakfast, lunch and dinner, instead of just one meal. Washington D.C. was also different because I had just returned from basic training and cooking school and didn't have any stripes yet, and I had to work around a lot of high-ranking people.

5. What does your family think about your military service?

My family loves it. I have a lot of family in the military, like aunts, uncles, my dad and my brother. They're really glad that I joined.

6. Tell us something about yourself that people might not know.

I love to be outdoors – I'm not a very indoor-oriented person. I especially love to hunt. I usually hunt deer, all kinds of birds, raccoons, rabbits and squirrels using bows, rifles and shotguns.



U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Jacob Sturges, services journeyman at the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus, Ohio, prepares baked chicken for 121st service members during Unit Training Assembly, Nov. 17, 2013, at the Red Tail Dining Facility. Sturges has been in Services since 2012, and says what he likes the most is contributing to the moral of the unit by providing nutritional meals every month to the members. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Bill Pierce/Released)

The Wing Watch will be spotlighting an Airman every quarter. If you know of an Airman who you think would be a good candidate for our newsletter, contact A1C Wendy Kuhn or MSgt Bill Pierce in the Public Affairs office at x3408. This is a great opportunity to showcase an Airman you feel deserves recognition for their work inside and outside of the military.

Vacancy Listings

Close Date	Duty AFSC	Unit	Duty Title	Rank	# of Positions & Info
23 Dec 13	3D154	CF	Spectrum Operations	SSgt	
23 Dec 13	3D153	220 EIS	RF Trans	SSgt	
23 Dec 13	3D156	220 EIS	Airfield Systems	SSgt	
23 Dec 13	3D157	220 EIS	Comm, Cable & Antenna	SSgt	Three
23 Dec 13	3E052	121 CES	Power Production	SSgt	Two
Until Filled	47G3	MDG	Dentist	2nd Lt.	Commissioning Opportunity
Until Filled	43Hx	MDG	Public Health Officer	Lt. Col.	
Until Filled	46NxE	MDG	Critical Care Nurse	Maj.	
27 Jan 14	41A3	121 MG	Medical Service Corp. Health Service Admin.	Maj. ¹	Commissioning Opportunity
Until Filled	44M3	121 MG	Internal Medicine Physician	Lt. Col. ²	Commissioning Opportunity
Until Filled	44E3	121 MG	Physician Emergency	Lt. Col. ²	Commissioning Opportunity
Until Filled	44F3	121 MG	Family Physician	Lt. Col. ²	Commissioning Opportunity
02 Jan 14	3P071	121 SFS	Security	TSgt	Multiple Positions
02 Jan 14	2T370	121 LRS	Vehicle Main. Sup.	MSgt	
02 Jan 14	8F000	121 AMXS	First Sergeant	MSgt ³	
02 Jan 14	8F000	121 MSG	First Sergeant	MSgt ³	
02 Jan 14	3M071	121 FSS	Services	TSgt	Multiple Positions
Until Filled	42G3	121 MG	Physician Asst.	Lt. Col. ²	Commissioning Opportunity & Multiple Positions
03 Jan 14	6F071	121 CTF	Finance	MSgt	
27 Jan 14	5J071	121 JA	Paralegal	TSgt ⁴	
27 Jan 14	5J071	121 JA	Paralegal	MSgt ⁴	

¹ Open to fully qualified 41A3, current officers who can meet MSC requirements (GRE or GMAT/Education-Degree) and individuals who are eligible to become members of the Ohio Air National Guard. See recruiting or medical for more information.

² Up to Lt. Col. See recruiting or medical for additional required qualifications.

³ Position open to Master Sgt's and promotable Tech. Sgt's. Must pass Air National Guard fitness test with 80 or higher. Must pass fit test 30 days prior to enroll in First Sgt. Academy (FSA). Agree to serve minimum of 3 years.

⁴ Prior qualification in any AFSC at 5-skill level or higher is preferred; Must have ASVAB (G) score of 51. Must be able to type 25 words per minute; No previous convictions by civilian court except for minor traffic violations or similar infractions. Must submit a cover letter explaining why you want to be a paralegal; two letters of recommendation and a resume. All applications must be approved by the Air National Guard Paralegal Career Field Manager - including those transferring from active duty or reserves. POC is Capt. William McClain at 614-492-3501.

121st Airmen of the Year

AIRMAN

SrA Megan N. Phillis, 121 OSS
Aviation Resource Management

NCO

TSgt Kasey L. Henkel, 121 MDG
Medical Technician

SNCO

MSgt Barry D. Anderson, 166 ARS
Boom Operator

The Last Hoorah!

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Lt. Col. Edward Saylor, 93, (left), Lt. Col. Richard Cole, 98 (center) and Staff Sgt. David Thatcher 92, (right), three of the last four remaining members of The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, share their final toast at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force Nov. 09, 2013 in Dayton, Ohio. The fourth surviving Raider, Lt. Col. Robert Hite, 93, couldn't travel to Ohio because of health problems. (U.S. Air Force photo)

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